

**So why did you leave?**

I came to the states when I was 18 to cook my way around the world. I spent two seasons at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island which is where I got my volume experience; 1,200 meals per night at about \$80 per meal will teach you a lot. Then I spent a couple of years at Harrison Roadhouse in East Lansing/Flint to work at the Redwood Lodge. I met my wife in Flint and spent 12 years there.

**Well, welcome to the area. Is it what you expected?**

There is a larger diversity of the types of people we get in here. On a Friday or Saturday night we have all different types of people from club trend-setters to grandparents.

**Have you noticed a difference in the way Americans and Europeans dine out?**

Americans need to relax a little bit. They work more days per year and have the fewer vacations than almost every other country.

If you only have 45 minutes to go out to eat, spend it enjoying your meal, not ripping it apart.

Relax.

**So you think Americans can be a bit uptight?**

Well, I think things like the iPhone are hurting the restaurant industry. The ability to post immediate reactions to Yelp is devastating because a lot of times, if people wait a while, they will change their minds. When you go out to eat, enjoy yourself. Don't spend your time picking apart a restaurant because a water glass was placed on the wrong side of a table.

**Where do you go to eat?**

I have a hard time going out to eat here because I'm new to the area but I like to see what other people are doing. I shy away from watching the Food Network because I don't want to be accused of stealing ideas.

**What is your culinary philosophy?**

Don't be afraid to try something. Cooking gives you an avenue to express yourself through.

**Favorite flavor combination?**

Mint and chocolate or lime and ginger

**Favorite junk food?**

Easter is a very difficult time for me. I keep a stockpile of Cadbury Eggs at home.

**What item can't you live without?**

H.P. sauce. It's the British equivalent of A1. I put it on everything from fries to eggs. I couldn't find it in the states for a long time so I would have my parents send me bottles of it in the mail.